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Appl. No. 10/698,642
Reply to Office action of 9/30/05

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and reexamination of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claim 1 has been canceled. Claims 2-4 are hereby amended. Claim 5 has been added. Claims 2-5 remain pending. Reconsideration and reexamination of the application, as amended, are requested.

The Examiner rejected claim 4 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicant has considered the Examiner's remarks and claim 4 has been appropriately amended.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Haraguchi (US 4,943,092).

Haraguchi discloses a suspension member 10 having a rectangular frame with a stepped portion at a longitudinally intermediate location. At a cross member, brackets 20R and 20L extend downwardly and are used for supporting right and left side lower control arms. A reinforcing plate member 40 is fixed to brackets 20R and 20L to bridge therebetween.

Claim 1 has been rewritten as claim 5. The structure of claim 5 requires a unitary member having various portions. Haraguchi does not disclose such unitary member. More particularly, the structure of claim 5 requires a transverse cross member having a connecting portion with left and right portions contacting the subframe. Either the connecting portion or the left and right end portions have left and right mounting portions in unity therewith. Haraguchi discloses no such member having left and right portions contacting the subframe and further having left and right mounting portions, all of which are in unity. Therefore, Haraguchi cannot anticipate claim 5 or the claims which depend from it.

Claim 3 requires left and right mounting members each having a wall surface facing the center of the frame. A connecting member interconnects the wall surfaces of the left and right mounting members. Haraguchi discloses a reinforcing plate member 40. Haraguchi does not disclose a connecting member for interconnecting wall surfaces.

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facing the center of the frame. Hence, Haraguchi does not disclose the structure of claim

3. Haraguchi does not anticipate claim 3 or the claims which depend from it.

The Examiner rejected claim 4 under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious on consideration of Haraguchi in view of Matsumura et al. Applicant does not acquiesce in the independent rejection of this claim, but distinguishing comments are not needed at this time since claim 4 depends from claim 3.

In view of the above, it submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and reexamination are requested. Allowance of claims 2-5 at an early date is solicited.



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Respectfully submitted,

HAMRE, SCHUMANN, MUELLER &
LARSON, P.C.
P.O. Box 2902-0902
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903
(612) 455-3800

By: Curtis B. Hamre

Curtis B. Hamre
Reg. No. 29,165
CBH/MFE/lad